THE EXAMINER.

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THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few. SWIFT.

No. 119.

MEETINGS IN FAVOUR OF REFORM AND OF SIR FRANCIS BURDETT.

There have been two Meetings, in the course of last week, in favour of Sir FRANCIS BURDETT and Reform—the one of the Electors of Westminster, and the other of the independent Livery of London; and the Reformists may well be congratulated on the very promising spirit of both these Meetings, which displayed equal ardour, temper, and consciousness of right. The objects of the former, which was called at the requisition of 2000 householders and attended by 20,000 inhabitants of Westminster, were to declare their approbation of the Baronet's conduct and to prepare a remonstrative Petition to the House of Commons for his restoration to liberty; and never was displayed a more enthusiastic attachment, or a more unanimous and constitutional spirit. Every part of the conduct of Sir FRANCIS was separately approved, and it was agreed that a letter should be presented to him, full of their gratitude and estimation. One passage in it may well be given twice in this Paper, as it contains the best praises that could be bestowed upon him—a summary of his good actions:—"When we reflect," say the Electors, "on your generous exertions to destroy the horrors of *secret and solitary confinement*—to mitigate the severity of punishment in the army—to prevent the cashiering of it's officers, without cause assigned—to restore, for the comfort of the worn-out soldier, the public property conveyed by a job to a private individual—to prevent the extension of the barrack-system, the obvious effect of which is to separate the soldier from the citizen—to prevent the introduction of foreign troops—to bring to light an atrocious act of tyranny by which a British sailor was left to perish on a barren rock—and above all, your unremitted exertions to obtain a full, fair, and free Representation of the People in Parliament—when we reflect on the firmness, the unshaken constancy which you have invariably shown 'in evil report and good report,' we are eager to express the sentiments of gratitude and attachment to you with which we are impressed, and we are convinced that those sentiments are not only felt by the inhabitants of this city, but by every person throughout the land, who is not interested in the continuance of public abuses." It would have been better, instead of this last sentence, to have read—"who at all *interests himself* in the *overthrow* of public abuses"—for had every person, who is not really interested in the continuance of abuses, really interested himself in their discontinuance, we should not now have to complain of the reverses that have mocked our patience, and the rulers that have mocked our liberty. But this is the error of a generous feeling. Every word of this letter, produced as it is on the strength of such *facts*, and coming from the hearts of thousands of his fellow-citizens, must be engraven on the heart's core of Sir FRANCIS BURDETT; and if he is the man which he undoubtedly appears, he will feel a delight at receiving it, a thousand times greater than any which BONAPARTE can enjoy, with all the orators of France and Italy at his feet.—The rest of the Meeting's time was occupied in the usual expression of sentiments in favour of Reform: there was little said that was new, but a great deal that was seasonable and necessary to be repeated. Lord COCHRANE, in holding up the sacred necessity of Reform, observed that the navy, though the just glory of this nation, is not, in itself, its sufficient security, as weak men have imagined. It is evident, indeed, to all dispassionate persons, who have seen how our shores can be insulted, and our fleets sent out to be the sport of a bad general, that Reform is as essential to the *maintenance* of our naval, as it is to the retrieval of our domestic glory; and to think or to say otherwise belongs only to my friends the dramatists, who make such advantage of the "Wooden Walls," and sum up the invincibility of England in a tobacco-box and a blue jacket. At the close of the Meeting, a good deal of mirth was excited by Mr. WARDLE, who related with much humour the forlorn peregrinations of the Speaker's Warrant in search of a little advice,—as how the Serjeant at Arms, being grievously puzzled therewith, took it back to the Speaker, who being also grievously puzzled, recommended said Serjeant "to take—advice:"—how said Serjeant, in consequence of said recommendation, took it to the Bow-street Magistrates, who referred him to the Cabinet Council, who referred him to the ATTORNEY-GENERAL, who referred him to *Analogy*, and withal greatly encouraged him to its execution, by setting forth the duties of housebreaking and the very trifling *responsibility* thereof. "There is," said Mr. WARDLE "only one party more to be puzzled, to render this perplexity complete, and that is—a British Jury." This peroration was received with an instant and enthusiastic shout, not as at the election-triumphs of the corruptionists, from

Some followers of *mine own*
At lower end of the hall—

or "some ten voices," but a general shout from 20,000 Englishmen, assembled to hear and to speak the truth, and to rally round a Constitution which has given them the liberty of so speaking. Their enthusiasm however, ardent as it was in utterance, and resolute in the truths

which it applauded, was, throughout the Meeting, rational and decorous in behaviour; and it must give every real lover of Reform the most sensible pleasure to recollect, that one of the most numerous assemblies that ever were seen in the metropolis, dissolved with a general cry of "home, home," and "immediately dispersed without the slightest appearance of disorder."

The Dinner at the City of London Tavern was not less encouraging, as far as its effect could go. It exhibited strong marks of the natural and encreasing tendency of independent men to unite with the Reformists. Mr. Whitbread was there, with Mr. Creevey, Mr. Byng, Lord Ossulston, &c. and what renders this Meeting more promising in its spirit than others of a similar nature have been, is that the public mind is *at this minute* agitated with an occurrence interesting to the curiosity, the feelings, and the safety of individuals; for the people are too apt to grow indolent upon abstract questions, the inconveniences of which they can surmount for a time, and the dangers of which are remote to the eye. It is only by rousing individual exertion, that collective exertion is to be expected; and history as well as reason informs us, that nothing is so useful and indeed so necessary to the maintenance of freedom, as a few simple occurrences, that shall lead back the minds of people to the first principles of their government,—that shall excite the enquiries of the uninformed, and awaken the vigilance of the unsuspecting. Mr. Whitbread, with the candour that does so much honour to his old English cast of character, had taken an opportunity the other night in the House of Commons to state that his subsequent researches had induced him to alter his opinion respecting the legality of the Speaker's warrant, or rather to fix his wavering opinion by the persuasion of its illegality. He still however has his doubts, and expressed them at the Dinner, whether such a *thing* is not occasionally useful. "Suppose," he observed, "that on an occasion similar to that of the inquiry into the Duke of York's conduct, two such men as Mr. Wardle and Mr. Waithman (were the latter gentleman in that House, in which, for the public good, I hope one day to see him) were interrupted in their progress to the House of Commons in consequence of placards, or other *lawless obstructions*, would not the people allow the House of Commons to have the privilege of committing for a libel?" Now this, with great deference to Mr. Whitbread's logical powers, is not the proper question. It is very likely that the people would *allow* such a privilege, but the question is, whether the law and the constitution would allow it. We have as little to do with the passions and likings of the people, as we have with those of the courtiers and aristocracy. All the power which the House of Commons possesses in such a case, or indeed in any other obnoxious case, seems to be that of punishing the *immediate* obstruction; the *first cause* of that obstruction, if cognizable, must be punished, by the law: the House has no more to do with it than with the parents and instructors, who may have instilled bad passions into the minds of the multitude. Granting even, that their power to commit for libel might be expedient on certain occasions, expediency is not an argument worthy of Mr. Whitbread's mind or of the great principles of polity. Were it in the power of each division of the state to have its licence of expediency whenever the majority thought proper, the constitution would at last be sacrificed to expedients; and, in fact, to this deadly consummation has the policy of late years been tending. Upon the plea of expediency, has the House of Commons been filled with placemen and pensioners: upon expediency, has the duration of Parliament been lengthened: upon expediency, have foreign troops been poured into England: upon expediency, was the freedom of this country put to the gasping experiment of an air-pump, or in plain words, the Habeas Corpus was suspended, that sacred principle of the constitution, in which alone, to use the expressive language of Scripture, "we live, and move, and have our being."—No, no: had not expedients been gradually taking place of the Constitution, the corrupt would never have dared to say that the Constitution was put in *want* of expedients, nor would any of its true friends have thought of bringing forward an argument upon such a principle, and addressing it to the weakness of public feeling. The Constitution is sufficient for itself, and for every great and good purpose; and the true Reformist will neither grant nor require any "allowance" that is incompatible with its first principles, and therefore dangerous to its existence. If he feels most for the people, it is not that he would grant them erroneous indulgencies, or appeal to their passions as to an infallible standard of judgment; he feels most for them because they compose the great mass of society, and because he knows, that by preserving the system of polity that has risen out of their social wants, and been sanctioned by the experience of their social happiness, he is doing the best he can for society at large. To this end it is, that he requires back "the whole Constitution, and nothing but the Constitution;" to this end it is that he calls himself a Reformist, not that it may grow into a party-title and obtain certain party ends, but that he may lead over the honest and the thinking to his opinion, and obtain the great and necessary end that becomes every day more manifest in its own pure light. "I must reflect," said Mr. Whitbread, (and I am more anxious to quote the passage, as the press of matter prevents the report of his speech at large) "I must reflect, that I am entrusted not for any particular purpose or for any small number of men, but that I am returned by the right of election for an extensive population,—that I neither have nor ever had interest in any borough, but that I spring directly from the people, and look to the people for support. I know that the constitutional liberty of England, whatever we may think of ancient liberty, is the purest that ever existed—that there was nothing in the ancient world to be compared with it; that Lacedemonian, Roman, or Athenian liberty, fell far short of British

constitutional liberty, under which every man has the same claims as we who represent them. In ancient days, we know that men fought and bled to assert their liberty, but we are told, that under the dominion of that liberty, a large portion of the people were consigned to domestic slavery. Under the constitution of this country no such thing can exist; we have consequently more to fight and contend for than any nation since the beginning of the world. It is true our constitutional liberty has been much impaired and neglected; our constitutional liberty has not at different times been asserted with the vigour the people have displayed on some occasions. *I believe the Reformation of the House of Commons has not only become necessary, but is found to be necessary; the necessity has been found more apparent every day. I am a friend to the Reform of the Representation; I have always been, and shall be till it is effected.*" These are just such opinions as a true Englishman ought to maintain; and this is just such an Englishman as can maintain them with effect. I will not do Mr. WHITBREAD the injustice to rank him among the Whigs who have been, *are to be*, or ought to be, *converted:* he has wanted no conversion, because he has ever been a Whig of the true old school; and in witnessing the corruptions of the constitution, and having no wish to avail himself of their continuance, has ever been consistent in encouraging Reform. He may have had his doubts upon certain matters, but as we see that he can acknowledge an error when he discovers it, we can as little suspect his reasons for doubting, as his motives for acknowledgment. The Assembly listened to his speech with respect and delight, and nothing could have pleased them more in the whole course of the evening, unless it was a part of Mr. MADOCKS's speech, in which that Gentleman, to the satisfaction of every candid person, explained away the suspicions that have been thrown on Sir FRANCIS BURDETT's letter to the Serjeant. The resistance made to the Serjeant, when he unexpectedly appeared at the Baronet's house on Friday evening, is no argument either way, as that proceeding was subsequent to the letter, and could make no difference in the feelings under which it had been written;—*but* Mr. MADOCKS states, upon his honour, that *two days* before the warrant was issued, when somebody observed to Sir FRANCIS that Ministers would not be content without sending him to the Tower, "*the Baronet declared his decided resolution to resist the execution of the warrant, if the House should come to such a vote.*" The letter therefore was nothing but a piece of civility to the Serjeant, and I think a somewhat overstrained or at best unlucky civility, considering the non-reception which the poor Serjeant was about to experience. However, that Mr. MADOCKS should have given the explanation, is a matter of great satisfaction to the Reformists, who though they justly despise the wretched abuse that is directed against the Baronet, and would never have it noticed in a serious manner, would nevertheless ever wish to regard the champion of the Constitution in a light worthy of his excellent character and his noble cause. One of the most perplexing feelings, which can confound the hearts and the designs of the corrupt, is the contemplation not of a violent enemy or an able enemy, but of an uncorrupt enemy, one who makes them feel with Satan in the poet,

How awful *goodness* is!

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FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

PARIS, APRIL 13.—Great preparations have been made at Antwerp for the reception of their Imperial Majesties, who will, it is said, proceed thither, direct from St. Quintin. It is affirmed that the Emperor intends to gratify his august Spouse with the grand, and to her entirely novel, sight of the launching of several ships, completely finished, at Antwerp.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

During the week, the bills on the table were forwarded in their respective stages; and on Tuesday Lord ERSKINE re-introduced His Bill for preventing Cruelty to Animals, with an addition of a clause, making the Reward of the Informer depend on the proof of the cruelty practised being wanton and malicious.—On Wednesday the House adjourned till the 2d of May.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, April 16.

THE DEBATES.

A Mr. WALLIS, or WALLACE, complained that of late the speeches of that House had been reported in a very improper manner:—some were suppressed altogether (Messrs. Windham and Tierney's) and others much misrepresented, as in the case of Sir John Anstruther. If such practices were continued, no Member was safe, however pure his intentions, for he must be at the mercy of a set of people, who are *suffered* to come here, and who may be governed by very bad motives. If those observations did not operate as a *warning*, he should be compelled to take other steps, and the House possessed full powers to vindicate its privileges, and to make its orders respected. He hoped he should meet the support of all sides. Those who think the publication of the Debates altogether *dangerous*, must think them most dangerous by their being misrepresented: those who think their publication beneficial, must think that the benefit depends upon their truth. The public itself, he thought, would feel, that if what he had hinted at subjects them to some *privations*, it was for their *benefit* that it was done; for it would be for the purpose of preventing that which is intended for their information being misrepresented at all, which was a matter in which they were deeply interested.

A MEMBER was observing that the combination must be broken through, and hoping that some Paper would take up the matter,—when the SPEAKER interfered, saying that the conversation was irregular, and it immediately closed.

JOHN GALE JONES.

Sir SAMUEL ROMILLY said, that although his opinion respecting the illegality of the imprisonment of J. G. Jones, remained quite unaltered, yet he should now merely move for his discharge on the ground that he had suffered sufficient punishment for the offence he had committed. He knew of no possible objection to his motion, except that it had been usual in

such cases for the prisoner to express his contrition for the offence he had committed, acknowledge the justice of his sentence, and petition for his discharge. This was stated to be the practice, though he was not aware that it had been the invariable rule. The House however should administer justice tempered with mercy, and should not, for the sake of preserving its usages, on a question touching its own privileges, do that which was substantially unjust, by refusing to discharge an individual whom every body admitted had been sufficiently punished for his offence, merely because that individual had not petitioned for justice. If such were to be the case, it would be difficult indeed to justify the proceedings of the House; for why should it not be satisfied with a sufficient punishment, or why should it call upon the offender to abjure his error,—to say that he had acted contrary to law,—when, in fact, he may be unable to think so? Such a doctrine formed no part of the practice of any other tribunal of justice. When individuals were formerly prosecuted for their religious opinions, it was justly observed, that they made *hypocrites* when they could not make *converts*. —[Here Sir Samuel adverted to the libel of Mr. Reeves, of Antijacobin memory,—the worthy colleague of John Bowles,—who wrote a pamphlet, in which he stated that the Constitution of England was a pure Monarchy,—that the other branches of the Legislature, the Lords and Commons, were emanations from the Crown,—that they might be lopt off and cast into the fire, but the tree would be a tree still, for that the head, and therefore the Constitution, remained! Mr. Reeves being "a loyal" man, the House did not proceed against him for a breach of privilege, but ordered the Attorney-General to prosecute for a libel, when he was acquitted by the Jury!! This was during Mr. Pitt's blessed reign.]—Sir Samuel Romilly asked, would the House say that such an individual ought to be committed for a breach of privilege, and remain as long as the House could keep him unless he recanted? Such a procedure would operate more terribly than any corporal punishment, inasmuch as it calls upon a man to openly degrade himself by stating what he does not believe. Formerly, it was the practice of the House to make offending individuals fall upon their knees at the bar,—but for the last half century that degrading practice has been discontinued. The practice of the House therefore has changed, as the opinions of mankind have become more enlarged and liberal. When J. G. Jones had been only 20 days in prison, a motion was made for his discharge, and it was the general sense of the House that if he would petition, he might regain his liberty. On account of his non-compliance with this practice, he has since remained five weeks in jail; but he (Sir Samuel R.) thought, that no person could contend that this refusal to petition was an offence of magnitude, yet it was treated as if it was of greater magnitude than that which the House decided to be a breach of privilege, for that is the offence for which the prisoner was committed. If, in fact, J. G. Jones had offended ever so grossly against the House,—still to make his *recantation* the condition of his release, when he really in his heart feels (however erroneously) that he has not offended against the privileges of the House or against the Constitution,—would be an act of great cruelty. With such opinions, how can he, without hypocrisy, make such a declaration? If, after hearing all the arguments which have been quoted on the subject, J. G. Jones conscientiously retains the opinion that to imprison a British subject for what he has done is illegal, would any Gentleman say, that the merely retaining such opinion, without acting upon it, was an offence of greater magnitude than that for which he was originally committed,—for which, it had been allowed, a few weeks confinement was a sufficient punishment? Is such retention of opinion an offence which calls for the severest punishment the House can inflict?—"Must the right of this House," concluded Sir Samuel," to imprison any body depend upon the valuable pledge of the assurance of J. G. Jones, that he is of that opinion?—(*Hear! Hear! Hear!*)—I am sure that no further argument that I can address, either to the common sense or to the humanity of this House, can be necessary; and, therefore, I now move you—that John Gale Jones be brought to-morrow to the Bar of this House to be discharged."

Mr. Secretary RYDER denied that it was necessary to make any recantation. The only thing required was a petition praying for release, and expressing a contrition for having incurred the displeasure of the House. He might still retain his opinions, and he was only called upon to do what he had already done at the Bar of the House. He therefore saw nothing in J. G. Jones's case which called upon the House to deviate from its usual practice.

Lord A. HAMILTON contended that the House should not have stooped from its dignity to notice this matter originally. It was merely a private dispute, in which J. Gale Jones had turned the Teller of the Exchequer into ridicule. He revered the privileges of the House, but they should be exercised for the protection of the rights of the People.

Mr. FULLER said, that as the prisoner had been sufficiently punished, he ought to be discharged. The House had defined the prerogatives of the Crown, and they should now ascertain what were really their own privileges, which even the Speaker found it difficult to understand. If their privileges should be left in the present undefined state, no man's house could be safe. But as he had been already very severely reprimanded for a breach of these privileges, in order to avoid being led too far by irritation, he should read from a paper what undefined privilege could do. The Hon. Member then read, that such privilege could put it in the power of a nervous Chairman of a Committee to call upon the Speaker for protection; it could give the Speaker the power to order a person to withdraw, and to the House that of ordering him into custody, without allowing him the opportunity of hearing the charge against him: it could give the power of keeping him in confinement, to the great affliction of his family, and so as nearly to cause the death of some of his connections; and then it could give the power of reprimanding the person for an offence, which at Common Law would not be punished by a fine of five shillings. If that reprimand should go down to posterity upon the Journals, it would be more injurious to the House than to the individual, in the minds of the people.

Lord FOLKSTONE wished to set the Right Hon. Secretary right, as to the practice of the House respecting petitions. That Right Hon. Gentleman had said, that it was not necessary for Mr. G. Jones to retract any opinion in his petition, in order to his being discharged. To show that the Right Hon. Gentleman was not correct, he had only to refer to a petition which he presented a few years since, from a Mr. Drake, who had been ordered into custody for having told lies and incredible stories, respecting himself, during his examination before that House. That petition he had brought up, and when it had been read, he moved that it be laid on the table; but was then informed by the Speaker, that it was contrary to the established practice of the House to place any such petition on its table, unless the petitioner submitted to the authority and craved the mercy of the House, at the same time acknowledging the justice of the sentence. Some days after he had presented this petition, however, it was found that all that Mr. Drake had said was *perfectly correct!!*—The consequence was, that Mr. Drake having been committed for supposed lies and prevarication, was suffered to remain in confinement because he would not acknowledge that to be *false* which was afterwards found to be *true*. Upon the whole, he was convinced that Mr. Jones ought to be discharged, and should therefore vote for the motion.

Mr. CURWEN, though not then present, had been informed that Mr. J. G. Jones had respectfully submitted to the authority of the House when he was brought to the bar. That being the case, he would ask whether the House would now punish him for an obstinacy, to which he might have been worked up by others? The House should think nothing of Mr. G. Jones; it should consult only its own honour, and the respect of the public, which he was convinced it would gain by the discharge of the prisoner. He entirely concurred in opinion with the Learned Mover of the motion, as to the cruelty of calling upon a man to retract an opinion which he conscientiously maintained. At this awful crisis, the House should not shut its eyes to the state of the nation. He was indeed far from thinking that the House, in point of reputation, had not a leg to stand upon, as had been falsely asserted; but he was nevertheless

less bound to admit, that it did not possess that high degree of public confidence which ought to belong to it. There were many grievances to redress, and he was very happy to find that an Hon. Gentleman (Mr. Brand) had given a notice of a motion for a Reform in Parliament. He was an advocate for reform, though not for any of those wild theories which had frequently been recommended; his wish was, to infuse into the House a greater proportion of the landed interest. He disapproved of the prodigality with which honours had been bestowed; and in the List of Pensioners before the House, he was sorry to see the names of many persons who ought to have been ashamed to take such sums from the public purse. The system of crimination and recrimination, so much adopted of late in that House, he deemed highly improper There was much talent and integrity on both sides of the House. The situation of the country called for a strong Administration, which could not be found from one side alone. Of the Right Hon. Gentleman opposite (Mr. Perceval) he had always been disposed to think well; but he could not look upon him as possessed of force and vigour enough for such times. The hopes of the country depended upon a combination of all the talents and respectability in that House. Mr. Curwen concluded by saying he should vote for the liberation of Mr. G. Jones.

Sir T. TURTON also approved of his being discharged.

The MASTER of the ROLLS (Sir Wm. Grant) was always disposed to abide by the long-continued usage of the House, when that usage did not lead to palpable injustice. If this usage were such that the party offending was not to be discharged till he had petitioned and acknowledged his offence, it would lead to consequences which he should not be disposed to follow. Upon any principles of jurisprudence known to him, he was at a loss to say why the prisoner should not be discharged, after it had been acknowledged that he had been sufficiently punished for his offence. Suppose the prisoner acknowledged his offence, would that add to the dignity of the house, or the security of its privileges? He knew of no analogy by which this right to make a man confess his offence could be justified. He thought that a month or six weeks imprisonment was quite punishment enough for the offence, and he should therefore vote for the discharge.

The SPEAKER rose to give his opinion as to the practice of Parliament in these cases. The course was different in commitments to the custody of the Serjeant and on commitments to his Majesty's jails. In the former case, the practice was both ways; the party obtained his release by petition, or by a statement made in his favour. In the latter case, the practice, if not universal, was general, not to release from such commitment but upon petition.

Mr. PERCEVAL said, it was not necessary that he should dilate upon the subject, after the practice of Parliament had been stated by the Speaker. He saw nothing in the question that called upon Parliament to deviate from its general practice. The prisoner was not to be called upon to abjure his opinions; but having been voted guilty of a breach of the privileges of that House, he saw no reason why he should not do that which he had already done. (*Hear, hear!*) When it was the practice of the House that he should present a petition, why should he refuse to do so, after he had said at the bar, as would be seen by a reference to the Minutes, "*In this instance I have erred, and I throw myself upon the mercy of this Assembly.*" He was therefore not called upon to recant any of his former opinions; it was his own contumacy which prevented his discharge. He was of opinion that Gale Jones should be made to submit to the practice of Parliament. There was nothing in the case or in the times that called upon the House to descend from its practice and its *dignity*, and he should vote against the motion.

Mr. WHITBREAD thought that the House had treated Gale Jones with cruelty, in committing him after he had thrown himself upon their mercy. He had admitted his error, and was he to be again called upon to make a second acknowledgment? No! said the Right Hon. Gentleman (Mr. Perceval) in the true spirit of intolerance, we must have him again do that which he had done before; we must make him show that he has not changed his opinion. But suppose he has changed his opinion, would it not be to call upon him to do violence to his conviction, to oblige him to acknowledge what he did not now believe? yet the Right Hon. Gentleman is an advocate for this torture of the mind. Mr. Jones had been punished for a thing that every Member of the House knew had been long practised. He was not in the House when he was committed, or he should have opposed the vote. Mr. Jones had a right to be liberated on the justice of the case; he had made a decent apology at the bar, and nothing more should be insisted upon. If he has altered his opinion as to the right of the House to commit him, it would be cruel to confine him until he stated a contrary opinion. His own opinions had been much shaken, from what he had lately heard and read on the subject, as to the power of the House in questions of commitment. The character of the House in the country would not be supported by continuing a punishment beyond all measure and appearance of justice.

Mr. WINDHAM approved altogether of the conduct of Mr. Yorke; he was an enemy to Parliamentary Reform, and would by no means vote for the dismissal of A man who refused to acknowledge the privileges of that House.

Mr. CANNING, upon the whole, was of opinion that G. Jones had been sufficiently punished for his offence. If he should now be discharged, no one could say that the House had abandoned any of its privileges, or that his release set the question of privilege to rest. As to the *dignity* of the House, now that the *great offender* (Sir F. Burdett) who had been justly and legally imprisoned, was suffering the punishment inflicted by the House, it could not be lowered by the release of the smaller offender, after having inflicted upon him an adequate chastisement.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL agreed with Mr. Perceval in the propriety of compelling Gale Jones to petition the House, before he obtained his release.

Mr. W. SMITH did not see that any such petition was now necessary, as it was admitted that the prisoner had been sufficiently punished.

Mr. MARRYATT was of the same opinion.

Sir JAMES HALL did not think the House would consult its *dignity* by a prolongation of the imprisonment. Indeed he did not think it would operate as a punishment to Mr. Jones, as it would make his case known to the public, who would deem him a sort of martyr; which would be of much service to him in his debating society, and in his trade of orator.

Mr. WILBERFORCE thought the reasoning of his Right Hon. and Learned Friend (the Master of the Rolls) was unanswerable on this point, and he should therefore vote for the release of the prisoner.

Mr. WARDLE said, that he should vote for the release; and he trusted that, on a future day, he should be able to prove to the House the truth of the opinion which he had entertained all along, that the House had no power to commit.

Mr. CROKER could not see that this case stood on more favourable circumstances than other cases, and therefore he should vote against the motion, merely on the ground of conforming to established precedents, and to the usage of the House.

Mr. BANKES also thought that the House ought not to depart from its forms and precedents, and more especially at such a time as the present.

Mr. HILEY ADDINGTON thought that the general usage of the House with respect to persons who had been committed to prison without having expressed contrition, did not apply to the present case, where it was allowed that the person brought to the Bar had expressed his sorrow for the offence, and asked the forgiveness of the House.

Mr. OWEN said a few words on the other side.

Mr. WYNNE said that Mr. Jones had been eight weeks in Newgate, and that was a time which every body seemed to consider an adequate punishment for his offence.

Mr. ADAM approved of the principle of the motion; but as something might take place to-morrow (alluding to the Westminster Meeting) he advised the bringing Gale Jones up on Wednesday.

After a few observations in reply from Sir S. ROMILLY, the House divided, when, as usual, the Minister had a majority of 48; there being for the motion, 112; and against it, 160.

The House then went into a Committee of Supply, when 548,481l. were voted for Barracks; and 1,250,000l. for the Commissariat Department.—Adjourned.

Tuesday, April 17.

The Highgate Archway Bill was read a third time and passed.

On the motion for the second reading of the Blackfriars Toll Bill, a conversation ensued, and the House divided; Ayes 23—Noes 51. The Bill was therefore lost.

WESTMINSTER PETITION.

Lord COCHRANE brought up the Petition of the Electors of Westminster, on that day assembled in Palace-yard, and moved that it should lie on the table.

The following is a copy of the Petition:—

"*To the Honourable the COMMONS of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.*

"The PETITION and REMONSTRANCE of the Inhabitant Householders of the City and Liberties of Westminster, assembled in New Palace-yard, the 17th day of April, 1810, by the appointment of ARTHUR MORRIS, Esq. the High Bailiff, in pursuance of a Requisition for that purpose.

"We, the Inhabitant Householders, Electors of the City and Liberties of Westminster, feel, most sensibly, the *indignity* offered to this City in the person of our beloved Representative, whose Letter to us has fallen under the censure of your Honourable House; but which, so far from deserving that censure, ought, in our opinion, to have led your Honourable House to reconsider the subject which he had so ably, legally, and constitutionally discussed. We are convinced that no one ought to be Prosecutor and Juror, Judge or Executioner, in his own cause, much less to assume, accumulate, and exercise all those offices in his own person. We are also convinced that the refusal of your Honourable House to inquire into the conduct of Lord Castlereagh and Mr. Perceval, then two of his Majesty's Ministers, when distinctly charged with the *sale of a Seat in your Honourable House*, evidence of which was offered at the Bar by a Member of your Honourable House; and the avowal in your Honourable House, "*that such practices were as notorious as the sun at noon-day*," practices, at the bare mention of which, the Speaker declared, that our ancestors would have startled with indignation: and the committal of Sir F. Burdett to prison, enforced by military power, are circumstances which render evident the imperious necessity of an immediate Reform in the Representation of the People. We, therefore, most earnestly call upon your Honourable House to restore to us our Representative; and, according to the notice he has given, to take the state of the Representation of the People into your serious consideration: a *Reform* in which is, in our opinion, the only means of preserving the people from military despotism."

The Hon. Mr. WARD could not consent to the reception of what he considered a gross and glaring violation of the dignity of that House.—(*Hear, hear!*) He chiefly objected to the wording of the Petition, and thought the introduction of the term "remonstrance" particularly indecorous.

Mr. CRAWFURD also objected to the language of the Petition, but thought it ought not on that account to be rejected altogether. Perhaps the best way would be to have it for the present withdrawn, in order that after it had been subjected to the revision of the petitioners, it might be again presented in less objectionable terms.

Mr. LUSHINGTON thought, that though the House ought to receive [illegible] still they were not bound to submit to an

[illegible] exceedingly sorry that any objection [illegible] the reception of the Petition.— [illegible] of the phrases in which the peti- [illegible] House on that account rejected it, [illegible] most violent act. The petition pro- [illegible] ceeded from a meeting highly respectable, convened according to law, and conducted in the most orderly manner. The grounds, therefore, of its rejection should not be slight (*Hear!*) An objection had been made to the introduction of the word "remonstrance," but the word itself conveyed no indignity; it was used in every petition to the Crown, and such petition was never objected to on that account. The Electors of Westminster were indignant at the arrest and imprisonment of one of their Representatives for what they considered an "able, legal, and constitutional argument;" so far it was with them a matter of opinion, and they had a right to express their opinion. As to the other point of their complaint—the acquittal of Mr. Perceval and Lord Castlereagh—that also, as it appeared on the Minutes of that House, they had a right to comment on; and still more had they a right to express their concurrence in the opinions so ably expressed by the Speaker, to the great instruction of the House and delight of the country, and which they might have seen faithfully reported to the nation in the very phrases in which they were uttered. With respect to the mode of executing the Speaker's warrant, after all that had passed, he did not wonder that doubts existed on the subject. Was it surprising, after the very ambiguous opinion of the Attorney-General? Was it surprising that, wishing as they did for reformation, they should be indignant at the imprisonment, and pray for the release, of the great champion of that reformation? Was it surprising that they should be incensed at the conduct of Government in not calling out the civil power until they had the military to march by their side? (*Hear! Hear!*) Was it surprising that they should say seats in that House were bought and sold like cattle in a fair, when the assertion had been made even in that House and not denied? The House indeed admitted the fact, but *disdained the imputation*; they loved the treason, but were indignant at being called traitor! (*Hear! Hear!*) The substance of the petition then could not be objected to, and surely it ought not to be rejected on account merely of the terms in which it was conveyed. In one point of the present petition he particularly concurred, the prayer for a Reform; it was indeed become highly essential; the country desired it, and the House needed it. (*Hear! Hear!*)

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER thought there was much of the language in the petition which ought to have been omitted, and which was certainly calculated to produce very strong emotions in the breasts of those to whom it was addressed. There were some cases, however, in which the forbearance of the House might be most prudently exercised, and in his opinion this was one of them. The expression to which he had most objection was that in which they reprobated the decision of the House; but still he did not think even that would warrant the total rejection of the petition. He would, however, act very differently, if he supposed the petition did not contain their real sentiments, but was merely intended as a vehicle of abuse.

Mr. PONSONBY said, the language of the petition was, no doubt, in some degree reprehensible, but still that was not sufficient cause for its rejection.

Mr. CANNING said, on looking over the petition, it was obvious that one of its objects was to provoke something of that kind of remark which had been made, and that the drawers up of the paper were trying their ingenuity how close they might run to actual insult. But if this petition were thrown out, the consequence would be, that another would be presented, containing insult equally strong, but more dextrously concealed. Then the House might be brought into the dilemma of having received one and rejected another, while both contained the same matter. The word "remonstrance," appeared to him not worth considering; the only phrase which really seemed obnoxious was, that in which it was said that the House offered an *indignity* to any class of the people. This was not true, and therefore not fit to be introduced into a petition; notwithstanding which, he thought, from the reasons already given, it might be permitted to lie on the table.

Mr. WHITBREAD said, that he did not conceive the word "indignity," to have been applied to the proceedings of the

House; yet even if it had been so applied, it could not, in his mind, have affected the right of the petition to lie on the table.

The question on its reception was then put and carried without a division; and the petition was ordered to lie on the table.

SIR F. BURDETT'S LETTER.

The SPEAKER read a notice of legal proceeding against him, in the name of Sir Francis Burdett. This Paper differed from that which had been before read from the Chair, only in the name of the parish in which Sir Francis's House stands.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER wished Members to consider, previously to the discussion connected with the notice just read, whether the violation of their privileges was not involved in these proceedings? The act of the Speaker was the act of the House: and the question might come, whether the interference of any external authority with an act done *in* the House, was not an infraction of the Bill of Rights?

Mr. WHITBREAD thought the Chancellor of the Exchequer's view of the Bill of Rights as erroneous as Mr. Yorke's. The arrest was an act done without the House, and it was of course like any other act of any other body of men.

MR. HUNT.

Mr. CALCRAFT rose, in pursuance of the Notice he had given relative to Mr. Hunt's expulsion. He was proceeding to state his reasons, when he was interrupted by the Speaker, who desired to know from the Serjeant at Arms whether the order of the House on Mr. Hunt had been served.

[The Messenger was then called to the Bar. But on his appearing not to have made a sufficiently accurate enquiry for Mr. Hunt's residence, it was suggested to Mr. Calcraft that it would be advisable to defer his Motion till such enquiry was made.]

Mr. CALCRAFT mentioned that Mr. Hunt's wife told the Messenger that she had just received a letter from her husband, dated from Lisbon.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER was of opinion, that in so serious a charge, no step of formality should be omitted. It was proper that the notice should be served and all search made.

Mr. CALCRAFT then fixed on the Thursday after the recess for his motion.

LORD CHATHAM.

Mr. WHITBREAD wished to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer one question. Lord Chatham, as the nation had been given to understand, had resigned his place about two months ago; but it was whispered that the resignation was a feint; that he still held the office of Master-General of the Ordnance; that he still possessed the patronage; and moreover, that he still condescended to receive the salary. Was this monstrous story true? Could it be true?

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER stated, that Lord Chatham still held his place. Till his patent was revoked, it was his duty to retain it; and the patent was not to be revoked in places so circumstanced, until the appointment of a successor. The *weighty business* which occupied Government might account for that successor not having been appointed; but Lord Chatham did not assist at the Cabinet.

Mr. WHITBREAD was astonished at this discovery. What! was this gross delusion to be practised on the people of England? A man resigned his place to the King (this was the statement of Ministers); he thus withdrew from the publicity of the situation; but how was this accomplished? By a vile delusion. For when the Minister gave the country to understand that Lord Chatham had retired, the contrary was the truth. The Minister had not been without opportunities of clearing up this point; for on being asked if the place was filled up, his constant answer was, that Government intended to *fill it up* as soon as possible, thereby plainly intimating that it was vacant. Was this to be sheltered under the pretext of a patent place? The question had not been whether Lord Chatham was a Cabinet Minister, but whether he was Master-General of the Ordnance. If his removal had not been perfectly understood, an address would have been moved to displace him. There was one more question, that he only required to have his full appetite for wonders satisfied. Did Lord Chatham continue to receive his salary?

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER professed that he could not be *certain* on the point, as it was not within his office.

Mr. A. COOPER admitted that he had received his salary up to the last quarter.

LONDON DOCKS.

Mr. W. SMITH moved the the Order of the Day for the report on the Evidence before the Committee, on the London Wet Docks.

Some conversation took place on the subject, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer expressed himself, as an adviser of the Crown, adverse to sanctioning the measure proposed.

The SPEAKER felt it necessary to state, that, as the object of the measure was to obtain larger compensation than the Act existing allowed, the consent of the Crown was necessary. It was well known that if this were an original application by Petition for such a grant, no step could be taken without the consent of his Majesty. As this was an application for a further extention of the original compensation, and had not such consent, it must be obvious that such defect was fatal to the measure.

After a few words from Mr. W. SMITH, expressing a hope that the fate of this measure should not prevent the parties from coming forward again with a declaratory act, the question was put and negatived without a division.—Adjourned.

Wednesday, April 18.

CONDUCT OF THE MILITARY DURING THE LATE DISTURBANCES.

Lord OSSULSTON rose to put a question to the Secretary of State. He saw in the newspapers a Proclamation offering a reward for the discovery and apprehension of persons alledged to have fired at some of the military in the course of the late disturbances; and he saw also the report on a Coroner's Inquest, who had found a verdict of "wilful murder against a Life Guardsman unknown." Now he wished to know, whether it was in the contemplation of Government to take any steps towards discovering the offender, whom, he understood, it could not be difficult to find out, as he was one of a rear guard consisting of only six persons?

Mr. RYDER said, his Majesty's Ministers had instituted an inquiry into all the circumstances connected with the conduct of the soldiery and the populace during the tumult, and he was enabled to state, that there was no instance in our history in which the forbearance and moderation of the soldiery was so remarkable, while they were not only pelted by the populace with stones and mud, but actually fired upon. This moderation was, indeed, not only manifested during the period in which the army was engaged in Piccadilly, but upon the Monday when the prisoner was conveyed to the Tower. As to the particular event adverted to, he was assured that no shot was fired by a soldier until several shots were fired from the same place to which the fatal shot was directed. Under these circumstances it could not be expected that Government should issue any Proclamation: nor did he think it would be consistent with its duty to issue any.

Mr. WHITBREAD agreed with the Right Hon. Gentleman, that the conduct of the soldiery had been very exemplary; but did that Right Hon. Gentleman mean to say, standing in that House as a Minister—

(Here Mr. PERCEVAL spoke to order, as there was no question before the House; with which the SPEAKER concurred.)

Mr. WHITBREAD, however, maintained his right of making a motion without previous notice, and therefore moved "that the verdict of the Coroner's Inquest be laid before the House." He was really much astonished at the very extraordinary doctrine laid down by the Right Hon. Gentleman. What! did the Right Hon. Gentleman mean to assert that the verdict of a Coroner's Inquest was not deserving of any investigation—that no step should be taken in consequence of it?—Was it not due to the cause of justice, to the feelings of the public, to the character of the soldiery, one of whom was accused of murder by this verdict, that an inquiry should take place? Such an in-

quiry indeed seemed peculiarly due to the vindication of the troops; for until the guilty individual was discovered the whole body was liable to be implicated, and why should not a Proclamation be issued in order to facilitate that discovery? Surely no Minister would pretend to disregard the verdict of a Coroner's Inquest, to assume the right of a Grand Jury, or to prevent that case which a Coroner's Inquest pronounced to be wilful murder, from being referred to a Jury for trial.

Mr. H. Combe supported the motion.

Mr. Perceval thought this motion ought to be resisted, from the irregular manner in which it was brought forward.—He conceived it tantamount to a call upon the House to interfere with the executive authority, and with the ordinary administration of justice, in a very improper manner. Government was already occupied in inquiring into this subject, and on what ground could that House interpose unless upon that of a suspicion that Government was not doing its duty? To the general abstinence and moderation of the soldiery, his Right Hon. Friend had very justly borne testimony. He understood, indeed, that from the very alley where the death took place the military were more annoyed by brick-bats, mud, &c. than from any other place, because the cavalry could not enter or even approach it. But there was an officer present in the House who was on duty at the time, and who had it in his power to state the particulars.

Captain Agar, having been on the spot in the performance of his military duty, could assure the House that the event which gave rise to this discussion, occasioned the utmost pain to the feelings of both the civil and military who witnessed it.—The fact was, that from the alley alluded to, which was near St. James's Church, the military received the utmost annoyance. Indeed, above 15 or 20 shots (by one of which a soldier was wounded in the arm) were fired from that direction before the soldiery were even allowed to load. He thought it right to add, that the Noble Lord was mistaken in speaking of a rear guard—for there was no such thing. There was near that spot a large detachment of between 60 and 100 men; as to five or six persons, he could not answer whether so many might not have been separate from the main body, but there was no such thing as a rear guard.

Mr. Lascelles was against the motion.

Mr. Whitbread, in reply, contended that though a thousand men had conducted themselves with temper, and only one man had been guilty of murder, that was no reason why that one should not be brought to justice. He did not complain of the conduct of the soldiery generally; but he thought it indispensible that this man should be put upon his trial. Did Ministers know the man who fired the shot?

Mr. M. A. Taylor was coming down Sackville-street when the unfortunate shot was fired. The carriage was stopped by the Guards, and directed another way, as, in consequence of the excessive tumult of the populace, it would be necessary to fire. He then got out, and proceeded towards an alley, when he heard a pistol discharged, and from the sound of the report, he had no doubt that it had been charged with blank cartridge. Shortly after he heard a shot from a musket, and he thought, from the quarter from which the noise issued, that the shot had been fired from some window in the range of houses opposite, and not from the military then passing.—*(Hear! Hear!)*—He was at the entrance of the alley, and on hearing the shot, and observing the direction, he made the best of his way down the alley.—*(A laugh.)*—He hoped that the man who fired the fatal shot would surrender himself to justice, as there could be little doubt that he would be acquitted by a British Jury.—*(Hear!)*

Capt. Agar observed, that a question had been put to the Right Hon. Gentlemen opposite, whether they knew who the man was that fired the unfortunate shot. He said that several other shots had been fired, and he doubted very much if the man himself who fired the unfortunate shot knew that he had fired it. It was also to be observed, that the military did not fire till *ordered by the Magistrates.*—*(Hear! Hear! Hear!)*

The motion was negatived without a division.

THE DUKE OF CUMBERLAND—THE FIFTEENTH REGIMENT OF LIGHT DRAGOONS.

Mr. Lyttleton rose to present a petition from Mr. Foskett, a Captain in the 15th Light Dragoons, praying relief from the pressure of severe and long-continued grievances, suffered by him in consequence of that redress having been deferred and ultimately denied to him, to which, by the articles of war, he felt himself entitled.

Here a conversation of some length ensued as to the propriety of bringing up the petition, which was opposed by General Crawfurd and supported by Mr. Whitbread. It was at length agreed that the petition should be brought up and read.

The petition stated that the petitioner had been 13 years in the service, and four years a senior Captain in the 15th regiment of dragoons; that in consequence of some complaint made against him by his Colonel, his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, his promotion was prevented; that he had applied to the Commander in Chief to have his complaint laid before his Majesty, but received no answer to his original application—that he had written again, and received for answer, from Col. Gordon, that it was wholly discretionary with the Commander in Chief to lay the case before his Majesty or not. The petition went to state in detail many grievances in the course of his frequent applications for redress.

Mr. Lyttleton then moved, that the petition should be laid upon the table.

Sir H. Montgomery observed, that the reason why the petitioner was not sent to Spain was, that his troop was the most ineffective in the regiment. It also operated against his claims, that he had been a second in a duel where six shots were fired by the principals.

Mr. Whitbread stated, that the observation of the last speaker merely rested upon assertion, and that there was assertion also in contradiction to it.

Mr. Perceval was of opinion that the petition should be received, subject to ulterior consideration. The promotion of that Officer was not impeded, as a Majority had been offered to him in another regiment; neither was he supplanted by any junior officer in the same regiment with him.

Mr. Lyttleton observed, that with respect to the alledged duel, the petitioner had, in his Memorial to the Commander in Chief, alluded to that, as one of the aspersions of which he complained. He, as the subject was mentioned, would say, that though the petitioner acted as a friend upon that occasion to one of the parties, he had exerted himself most actively to promote a reconciliation.—*(Hear! Hear!)*

The petition was ordered to lie on the table.

SUPPLY.

The House resolved itself into a Committee of Supply.

Mr. Whitbread expressed his desire that the Grants of Public Money should be deferred to a period when the House was, from a fuller attendance, best able to pronounce its opinion upon them.

Mr. Wharton observed, that the first Estimate he wished to propose, referred to the sum of 10,000l. for the Civil Roads in Scotland, to which he could not anticipate any objection.—Agreed to.

After some conversation, in which the Speaker took a part, and vindicated the Grant as being highly advantageous to the country, there were voted:—

For carrying on the Works at the Caledonian Canal	£50,000
For the deficiency in the sum for Printing the Journals of last year	713
For Printing the 82d Volume of the Journals	3,500
For Printing the Bills, Votes, &c. for the present Session	22,000
For Re-printing four Volumes of the Journals	10,000
For the British Museum	7,000
For completing the Buildings for the Museum, &c. belonging to the College of Surgeons	12,500

WAYS AND MEANS.

In a Committee of Ways and Means,

Mr. PERCEVAL moved, that the Surplus of the Consolidated Fund for the present year be voted in part of the supply to be granted to his Majesty. He took occasion on this subject to inform the House, that the Consolidated Fund for the present year was 7,019,000*l.* more than usual, and nearly *double the surplus average of other years.*—He then moved that there be granted towards the Supply to his Majesty, the Surplus of the Consolidated Fund, remaining in the Exchequer, amounting to 2,233,000*l.*—After a short conversation this Resolution was agreed to.

The notice for relieving the Officers in the Army from the Property Tax, was postponed till Tuesday, the 1st of May.—Adjourned till Monday se'nnight.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

BANKRUPTS.

J. Fearson, Bath, hosier.
C. Marshall, Ratcliffe-square, mariner.
C. Addis, New Boswell-court, money-scrivener.
J. Vaughan, Braunston-quay, Daventry, merchant.
D. Taylor, Mile-End-road, cabinet-maker.
E. Cox, Olveston, Gloucestershire, shopkeeper.
E. Stafford, Stockley Bridge, Lancashire, shopkeeper.
C. Dalley, Manchester, lace-manufacturer.
W. Gough, Cranbourne-street, mercer.
T. Sturley, Swaffham, Norfolk, upholder.
G. Maggs, Bristol, linen-draper.
J. Roose, Liverpool, merchant.
W. Griffiths, Westwood, Wiltshire, dyer.
R. Robertson, Stourbridge, Worcestershire, druggist.
W. Davies, Cradley, Worcestershire, gun-barrel-maker.
D. Moseley, Wakefield, innkeeper.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

This Gazette contains an account of the capture of l'Esperance French national vessel (late his Majesty's ship Laurel), armed en-flute, with a valuable cargo of colonial produce, by the Unicorn, Capt. Kerr.

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

J. and J. Plimpton, of Wood-street, Cheapside, warehousemen.

BANKRUPTS.

D. Pawlett, Nottingham, tallow-chandler.
J. Cox and J. Smith, Manchester, auctioneers.
W. Colleos, Fransham, Surrey, potter.
W. Potter, jun. Nottingham, grocer.
J. Long, Deptford, victualler.
G. Wharton, Northowram, Yorkshire, callico-manufacturer.
T. Taylor, City Road, victualler.
T. Gorsuch, Peter-street, Cow-cross, cheese-monger.
E. G. Adams, St. Mary-le-bone, apothecary.
J. Moloy, Monmouth-street, cloaths-salesman.
A. Krose, Union-court, Broad-street, merchant.

PRICE OF STOCKS ON SATURDAY.

3 per Cent. Cons.....69⅞ 70 | 3 per Reduced....69⅛

Owing to the press of temporary matter, many COMMUNICATIONS are unavoidably delayed, some of which will appear next publication.

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON, APRIL 22.

THERE are stories from Lisbon of Spanish successes, and from Gibraltar of Spanish defeats; ROMANA, it is said, has advanced upon, if not entered Seville, a battle has been daily expected between the British and French at *Ciudad Rodrigo*, and it was expected that the latter would be compelled to withdraw their troops from opposite Cadiz, in order to save their retreat to La Mancha. But from what the public have known of this species of rumour throughout the war, it is impossible to give credit to any thing less than an official account; nay, it is difficult to credit that even, till we see how events turn out. Lisbon news might pass into a proverb for lying. The British and French may meet and may engage, and the British may gain a victory *in spite* of their friends the Portuguese; but all this will only shed useless blood, put off the evil day a few hours, and *make it heavier* when it comes. One would have thought by this time, that nobody could think otherwise, except men of inflexible stupidity like the Ministers; but others who are not slow to lament the shortsightedness of those poor fellows, still fancy very promising visions in the peninsula: they still talk of "probabilities," of "activity," and of "enterprise," and flatter themselves, with the philosophic PERCEVAL, that "something may *turn up.*" All that need be answered to this, is to ask where the *Cortes* are, that were to be assembled, most assuredly and most solemnly, on the 1st of last March?—One is tired of repeating such questions and recording such false calculations. Was not the only honest Junta, the first Seville Junta, unlawfully deposed, without the interference of the people? Were not 10 millions of Spaniards unable to drive 40,000 Frenchmen beyond the Pyrenees? Has not city after city talked of its "beloved FERDINAND," and then sworn fidelity to King JOSEPH, before saints and crucifixes? In fine, have not the real patriots been *imprisoned*, and the *liberty of speaking and writing* been beaten down by authority?—What can folly, or the French, want more?

The readers of the EXAMINER will peruse with the sincerest pleasure the following Letter of Sir FRANCIS BURDETT to his grateful Constituents, which first appeared in a new Evening Paper of yesterday called the *Alfred*. The poetry, which he quotes, is from SHAKSPEARE'S *Richard the Second* (Act 2, scene 1,) where the dying *Gaunt* bewails the miseries of his country and the infatuation of it's king. Does the style of this letter—does any one sentiment in it—betray the innovating designs, the fierce temper, the phrenzied nonsense of a "republican demagogue?" Not a syllable. In every sentence the public will recognize the constitutional views, the conscious integrity, the dignified simplicity, of the true English Reformist—of the man who grows greater from suffering and more powerful from loss of liberty,—and who is every day more beloved by the honest, because every day he becomes more hateful to the dishonourable.

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LETTER FROM SIR FRANCIS BURDETT IN REPLY TO HIS CONSTITUENTS.

Tower, April 20, 1810.

Sir Francis Burdett presents his respectful compliments to the High Bailiff of Westminster, and transmits to him his An-

swer to the Letter of the Electors of that city, which he did him the honour to present to him this morning.

ARTHUR MORRIS, Esq.
High Bailiff for the City and Liberties of Westminster.

Tower, April 20, 1810.

GENTLEMEN—If any thing could increase or confirm the constant resolution of my life never to betray the confidence you have placed in me, it is the kindness and affection which your letter of the 17th instant testifies to me, and the wisdom and propriety of your conduct at the late meeting.

A scrupulous adherence to the Common Law of this land, and the wise provisions of the antient Statutes, declaratory of that Law, which, together, form what I understand by the Constitution, raised our Country to an unexampled height of happiness and prosperity; and in an exact proportion to the invasion and neglect of them has the Country declined.

In defence of these Laws and this Constitution, I smile at any privation to which, personally, I may be subjected, thinking, as I do, that life cannot so well and so happily, because it cannot be so honourably and usefully, expended, as in defence of this our best inheritance, and in the maintenance of the good old cause, for which Hampden died in the field, and Sidney and Russell on the scaffold.

Laws, to be entitled to respect and willing obedience, must be pure—must come from a pure source—that is, from common consent; and through an uncorrupt channel—that is, an House of Commons freely elected by the People. Moreover, they who pay the Reckoning ought to examine and controul the Account; and the only controul the People can have, is by a fair Representation in Parliament.—The necessity of obtaining this check, by a Constitutional Reform, is now acknowledged by all, except those who, contrary to Law, have possessed themselves of a property in the House of Commons, by whom this land, this England—

> ——— this dear, dear land,
> Dear, for her reputation through the world,
> Is now leas'd out ———
> Like to a tenement, or pelting farm;
> England, bound in with the triumphant sea,
> Whose rocky shore beats back the envious surge
> Of watery Neptune, is now bound in with shame,
> With inky blots and rotten parchment bonds.

From this foul and traiterous traffic, our Borough-monger Sovereigns derive an immense revenue, cruelly wrung from the hard hand of honest labour. I do, however, now entertain an ardent hope, that this degraded and degrading system, to which all our difficulties, grievances, and dangers are owing, will at length give way to the moderate, but determined, perseverance of a whole united People.

MAGNA CHARTA, and the old Law of the land, will then resume their empire—Freedom will revive—and the caterpillars of the State, coiling themselves up in their own, naturally, narrow sphere, will fall off and perish—property and political power, which the Law never separates, will be re-united—the King replaced in the happy and dignified station, allotted him by the Constitution—the People relieved from the bitterest of all curses, the curse of Canaan (that of being the servants of servants), and restored to their just and indisputable Rights.

To these great, important, and necessary purposes, no exertions of mine shall ever be wanting; without their attainment, no effort of mine can avail.

The People of England must speak out—they must do more—they must act; and if, following the example of the Electors of Westminster, they do act in a firm and regular manner, upon a concerted plan—ever keeping the Law and Constitution in view—they must finally succeed in recovering that to which they are legally entitled—the appointment of their own Guardians and Trustees, for the protection of their own Liberty and Property. They must either do this, or they must inevitably fall a sacrifice to one or the other of the most contemptible factions that ever disgraced this or any other country.

The question is now at issue; it must now be ultimately determined, whether we are henceforth to be slaves, or be free. Hold to the Laws—this great Country may recover;—forsake them—and it will certainly perish.—I am, Gentlemen, your most obedient humble Servant, FRANCIS BURDETT.

To the Electors of Westminster.

The following Requisition has been presented to the LORD MAYOR, who has appointed Wednesday, the 23 of May, for the meeting of the Livery:—

"To the Right Honourable the LORD MAYOR.

"We, whose names are subscribed, request that your Lordship will convene the Livery of London in Common Hall, to take into consideration the alarming assumption of Privilege by the Honourable the House of Commons, of arresting and imprisoning, during pleasure, the people of England, for offences cognizable in the usual Courts of Law."

[Signed by nearly Seventy of the Livery.]

There is to be a meeting of the Freeholders of Middlesex, at the Mermaid, Hackney, on Thursday next, "to consider of the propriety of adopting any and what measure, by Address, Petition, Resolution, or otherwise, on the subject of the late Votes of the House of Commons in the case of Sir FRANCIS BURDETT, and of the new and extraordinary proceedings had thereupon."

The military that were brought into London, in consequence of the late disturbances, began to march back on their different routes on Thursday.

Among numerous instances of the brutal behaviour of the Life Guards during the late tumults, the following may be relied upon:—A very respectable elderly Gentleman, residing in Sloane-street, asked a lifeguardsman, with much civility, whether it was true that one of his companions had been shot at? Instead of answering the question, the fellow used some foul language: when the Gentleman remarked, that having asked a plain question, he might reasonably have expected a civil reply. Upon which the ruffian instantly gave the Gentleman a violent blow on the arm with his sword, which was much bruised in consequence.

A new writ has been moved for the Borough of St. Germain's, in the room of Sir JOSEPH YORKE, who is to be succeeded by his brother, the ex-member for Cambridgeshire—the new Teller of the Exchequer.

Mr. WINDHAM, it seems, approves altogether of Mr. YORKE's conduct, and no wonder. Mr. YORKE succeeded Mr. WINDHAM in that Augean Stable, the War-Office, in which he and his host of relatives and retainers, for seven long years, had enjoyed all the open and *secret* advantages arising from handling annually many millions of the public money,—thousands of which are yet to be accounted for. Mr. EMPEROR WOODFORD, the agent and friend of Mr. WINDHAM, whose evidence was much wanted by the Commissioners of Military Inquiry, has indeed taken himself off to America; but that will not do; the foreign corps peculators must yet be dragged to light, if not to punishment.

The following article is extracted from an Evening Paper of Wednesday:—

THE DEATH OF POOR JEFFERY.

"PLYMOUTH, APRIL 16.—Friday last two smugglers, who had been some time in the American merchant service, arrived at Fowey, with a letter to the mother of the unfortunate Jeffery, from the American Captain with whom they had sailed, stating, that he took the unhappy man off the Island of Sombrero, after he had been on it a fortnight without sustenance; that *he had eaten the flesh off his arms*, and died in two hours after having been taken on board, though every attention was paid him. Notwithstanding his miserable situation, he was perfectly sensible. The Captain has expressed his willingness to come forward with his testimony on oath. I shall forbear entering more fully into the business till I have made a thorough inquiry, and for that purpose have sent down to Fowey. In the mean time, give me leave to say, that I conceive the statement rests on a good foundation."—(We are authorized to add, that the Gentleman who sent us the above information has desired us not to withhold his name, from those whose duty it may be to investigate this atrocious transaction.—*Star.*)

On Thursday a duel was fought in Hackney-fields between two Gentlemen residing in that neighbourhood, one an eminent stockbroker, and the other a junior partner in a mercantile house, in consequence of a dispute which took place the preceding day at the house of a friend. The parties exchanged shots, by which one of them was slightly wounded in the shoulder; the seconds then interfered, and a reconciliation took place.

Early on Friday morning the second daughter of a wealthy merchant eloped with a military officer from her father's residence, in the neighbourhood of Bloomsbury-square.

MR. JOHN GALE JONES.—On Wednesday, a Meeting was held at the Crown and Anchor Tavern, to take the imprisonment of Mr. JONES into consideration, and to adopt measures for his support.—Mr. CLIFFORD was called to the Chair; several Resolutions were proposed and carried, and "to obviate the evil effects which might arise from such practices being drawn into a precedent, a subscription was entered into for supporting the said J. G. JONES, and to defray the expence of vindicating, by all constitutional means, the unalienable birth-right of the People—a Trial by a Jury of their equals."

The United Kingdom and Charlton East Indiamen, which have been captured by the French and carried into the Isle of France, sailed from Portsmouth in company with the Windham and two others. There is some apprehension respecting the fate of the Windham. No less than fifteen of the Company's ships have been lost or taken in the course of as many months.

Letters dated the 6th inst. have been received from St. Andero. They communicate the intelligence of the failure of a plan to expel the French from that town and neighbourhood. The inhabitants had taken measures for rising on the troops by which it was occupied. Accordingly, on the 3d, a partial execution of the plot took place. About 100 of the French were surprised and killed in their quarters. An alarm, however, was spread, the garrison flew to arms, and in a short time overpowered the Spaniards, and put a great number of them to death. Nearly 200 of the principal inhabitants have been sent off under an escort to France.

Serjeant LENS, Mr. WARREN, and Mr. CLIFFORD, have been retained as Counsel for Sir FRANCIS BURDETT, in the ensuing contest with the House of Commons.

Saturday week the sword, buckles, and straps; fell from the equestrian statue of King CHARLES I. in Charing-cross. They were picked up by a porter at the Golden-cross, and deposited in the care of Mr. EYRE, trunk-maker, who has apprised the Board of Green Cloth of the circumstance.—The superstitious will think this ominous.

FINE ARTS.

BRITISH INSTITUTION.

7. *The Pinch of Snuff.* M. W. SHARP.—Familiar incident in genteel life has been represented with much refinement of feeling by Mr. A. CHALON in various little paintings in this rare class of art, and Mr. SHARP has conferred a spirit and at the same time delicacy on *the Pinch of Snuff*, that must be gratifying to the connoisseur. A young lady, in company with her music-master, is giving a specimen of her skill in singing and on the guittar to two ladies and a gentleman. She is interrupted by the sneezing of a boy whom the gentleman has presented with snuff. This is a novel incident on canvass, and is told with such vivacity, that if sneezing was as epidemical as yawning often is, the sight of the teazing pungency of the snuff which convulses the boy, would affect the noses which necessarily come in close contact with so highly finished a picture. The resentful countenance of the master, and the mischievous smile of the gentleman, are secondary but forcible accessories to the main incident. Mr. SHARP has well appreciated his powers in his choice of genteel life, which materially separates his style from that of the admirable WILKIE. We recognise in the *Pinch of Snuff* a fashionably polished party. The elegant room which contains them, and the rich old English dresses, are partial demonstrations of this; but as low and ignorant Cheesemongers become Baronets, as wealthy vulgarity in fine clothes may inhabit splendid apartments, the painter has best designated the refinement of his party by its legitimate test of manners. The gentleman is a representation of those who command respect by dignity and ease of deportment, and the females of those ladies who possess the fascinations of exterior grace. A dog engaged in gnawing the glove which the gentleman has dropped, is a very natural incident. The piece is very delicately finished, and is generally of a bright silver tone of colour, enriched by some warm hues. Estimable however as it is for its truth of character, delicacy of finishing and gradation, and harmony of tone, it is not without defects. The general character of the touches and forms is feeble, if compared to the vigorous handling of TENIERS or WILKIE, and the reds of the flesh are of too crimson and the shadows of too purple a hue. It is however highly honorable to the talent of the painter, especially when it is considered that it is but his second performance of the kind.

The Earl of EGREMONT has purchased Mr. J. J. CHALON's picture of the *Ferry-boat*, admirable for its simplicity of composition, its harmony and force of clare obscure and colour. Sir R. HOARE, the Earl of ESSEX, Messrs. CROWLE and ASTLEY, have shewn a judicious taste in purchases of pieces by Mr. B. BARKER; and Mr. WEBB in purchasing Mr. T. BARKER's pathetic little *Beggar Boy*. The Marquis of BLANDFORD and Mr. D. ASTLEY are among the purchasers of Mr. REYNOLDS's landscapes, so pleasing for their force and breadth. Mr. G. JONES's brilliant little views are bought by Mr. BLACKMAN. Mr. LINNELL has two little

landscapes of great delicacy of finish and truth. Lady LUCAS and several other amateurs have purchased Mr. LAPORTE's pleasing performances, as has the Earl of CARYSFORT that of Mr. STUMP. Mr. B. HOPNER's sea-pieces possess the usual spirit of his pencil; and Miss GOLDSMITH's two landscapes maintain the character of her pencil for spirit and delicacy of touch, breadth of effect, and clearness of tone. These, with Mr. P. REINAGLE's, Mr. G. ARNALD's, and Mr. CRANMER's, constitute most of the good landscapes in this Exhibition.

R. H.

THE OPERA.

SIR—All the powers of the tailors, painters, and carpenters of this theatre have been put in requisition to give proper effect to the new ballet of *Psichē*, and afford a specimen of what they can do in the sublime; but unfortunately it appears too late that the piece has little prospect of attraction, and that the tailor has stitched, the carpenter hammered, and the scene-painter daubed, in vain. The original ballet on which this is founded, is said to be the production of Monsieur GARDEL, and if this at all resembles it, gives little reason to justify the renown he has acquired at Paris; it is however not improbable that, like the Chevalier LE CAINEA's revival of *Il Principe di Taranto*, it has undergone such compressions and dilatations, as would prevent Monsieur GARDEL from recognising his own offspring. In its present state it is a mere jumble of "inexplicable dumb shew," aided by changes of scenery, that drag us from earth to hell, and from hell to heaven, without any apparent motive: it has also a competent supply of devils of all complexions and colours, who seem to take great delight in a lavish expenditure of rosin. The feats of these imps extended the representation on the first night to the hour of one, and would have done so on the following Saturday, had not the Bishop issued his mandate that no devil should appear after twelve, which closed the performance abruptly, and left the audience in the midst of the infernal regions.

Had Signor MARINARI still been employed, his fine designs would have compensated in some measure for the tediousness of the ballet; but the scenic department is now in the hands of men unacquainted even with the common rules of perspective. It is not uncommon to see the floors of their palaces on a declivity that would prevent the possibility of walking on them, and the openings between the battlements of towers filled up with blue sky, although hills are seen in the distance above them; nay, so far has this absurdity been carried, that, in *Sidagero*, a soldier mounts a tower behind the sky, which lies like snow on the top of it, and plants his colours in pure ether! The scene of the infernal regions in *Psichē* is remarkable for nothing but its waste of red ochre, and the injudicious introduction of ill painted figures, in attitudes of violent motion, which in themselves destroy all illusion, but appear still worse when contrasted with living beings, that prove at once the inability of the painter, by shewing how indifferently he has imitated nature. In the celestial scene the failure is yet greater; we are there presented with an assemblage of gods and goddesses, so black and so blue, that they look more like chimney-sweepers and prize-fighters than inhabitants of heaven. *Venus* with a black eye, and *Mercury* with bandy legs, are unseemly sights, but they are such as must be expected when men paint without knowledge of the human figure, or the effects of colours.

The action of Monsieur and Madame DESHAYES was such as might be expected from their classical taste, and formed a striking contrast to the graceless gestures of VESTRIS, and the stiff unnatural attitudes of Madame ANGIOLINI. To spin like a top, or bound like a tennis-ball, are wonderful acquirements; but when once seen we are satisfied they can be done, and have less desire for their repetition than regret in remembering the time which must have been thrown away upon their attainment. The *Venus* of Madame CLAIRE was completely colossal, and possessing the attributes of *Hercules* rather than those of the Paphian Goddess.

The music is, as usual, said to be the production of VENUA, and, with all its faults and plagiarisms, is to be preferred to the dull effusions of GUGLIELMI's muse; the latter, too proud to select, fatigues by his insipidity, while VENUA, by his promiscuous pilferings, sometimes entertains us with a good composition.

H. R.

SIR F. BURDETT.—WESTMINSTER MEETING.

On Tuesday, the Electors of Westminster, in compliance with a Requisition signed by nearly 2,000 inhabitants, met in Palace Yard, to resolve on the proper steps to be taken in consequence of the imprisonment of their patriotic Representative, Sir F. Burdett. The HIGH BAILIFF having opened the business,

Mr. STURCH addressed the Electors in a very manly and sensible speech, in which he asserted, that Sir Francis Burdett had been dragged to prison, where he was to remain during the pleasure of those who sent him there, who were the offended parties, and at the same time complainants, judges, and executioners!—that their Representative had been guilty of no crime, had been brought to no legal trial, and had been imprisoned by no competent authority. Mr. Sturch concluded his speech, which was interrupted and followed by repeated cheers of approbation, by calling upon the people to conduct themselves with more than usual temper and moderation, in order to prove to their enemies that all they wanted was to obtain, by legal means, a radical Reform in Parliament. Mr. Sturch then proposed the following RESOLUTIONS:—

I. That we most highly approve of Sir Francis Burdett's Letter to us, his Constituents, the subject being of the utmost importance, and the argument incontrovertible.

II. That Sir Francis Burdett's conduct in calling the Sheriff to the protection of his house against a military force, was dictated by prudence, knowledge of, and confidence in, the laws of his country.

III. That the House of Commons be called upon to restore to us our beloved Representative, and to co-operate immediately with him in his endeavours to procure a fair representation of the people in Parliament.

On the first Resolution having been put, Mr. WISHART said, that though the King had his prerogatives, and the Parliament their privileges, yet they should never forget that the People had also their *Rights*, (*Bravo, bravo!*) and when those rights were violated, in the person of their beloved, intrepid, and honest Representative, it was their peculiar duty to rally round and support him. This, to be sure, was not the first time the House of Commons had assumed a privilege of which the constitution knew nothing. On a former occasion, when they sent their Speaker to summon before them that learned and upright judge, Lord Chief Justice Holt, for having uttered something which had displeased them, the Lord Chief Justice addressed the Speaker and his attendants as follows:—"I am sitting here in the King's Court to administer

justice to the subjects of the king, according to *the Law of the Land*, and if you, Mr. Speaker, had the whole House of Commons within your belly, and do not quit this Court within five minutes, I shall commit you to prison." The Speaker, not liking the appearance of things, took himself off with his attendants. The privileges of the House were granted to defend it from the power of the Crown, not to be used against the rights of the people; but it was absurd to suppose that the House had sent their Representative to the Tower merely for having written that letter to his Constituents. No, no; the reason was, that by his repeatedly touching upon the various abuses in the government—by his constant attention to the interests of the people—and, above all, by his earnest attempts to obtain that great and saving object, a REFORM IN PARLIAMENT, he had made himself obnoxious to the majority of that House, and therefore it was that they were so anxious to get rid of him, at any rate, and by any means (*loud applauses.*) When a *private* individual, (Mr. Davison) had improperly interfered in the election of a member of parliament, he was sent to trial, and punished by a rigorous imprisonment; but when one of the King's Cabinet Ministers was actually charged with a crime of far greater enormity, the actual sale of a seat in Parliament, which was offered to be proved at their bar, what did Parliament do? why, a majority unblushingly voted, that there was no necessity for enquiry, as the practice was *frequent* and *notorious!!*—This speech was followed by the loudest plaudits, and the Resolutions were carried by the instantaneous holding up of thousands of hands, as they were separately put. The Petition and Remonstrance to Parliament was then read by Mr. PULLER, (*for which see the Commons*) which was carried in the same manner.—It was then unanimously agreed, that the following Letter should be sent to SIR FRANCIS BURDETT:—

LETTER.

"SIR,—We nominated you to be our representative without your knowledge, and we elected you without your interference. We were confident that you would perform the duties of a Representative in Parliament with ability and fidelity. In every respect you have not only fulfilled, but exceeded our expectations. We derive the utmost satisfaction from having pointed out to the nation the way to be fairly represented. Had it been possible that our example could have been followed, and a proper representation of the people thereby produced, the scenes we have lately witnessed would not have disgraced our country. We understood the nobleness of your mind, and were confident that you would not descend to barter your trust for a place under Government, nor be the partizan or leader of those who support or reject measures just as they happen to be proposed on this or that side of the House. We feel the indignity that has been offered to you; but we are not surprised to find, that, when every excuse is made for public delinquents, the utmost rigour is exercised against him who pleads for the ancient and constitutional rights of the People. You nobly stept forward in defence of a fellow-subject unjustly imprisoned; and you questioned, with great ability and knowledge of the laws, the warrant issued upon that occasion. The House of Commons have answered your argument, by breaking into your house with a military force, seizing your person, and conveying you by a large body of troops to the Tower. Your distinction between *privilege* and *power* remains unaltered: the privileges of the House of Commons are for the protection, not for the destruction, of the People. We have resolved to remonstrate with the House of Commons, on the outrages committed under their order, and to call upon them to restore you to your seat in Parliament, which the present state of the country renders more than ever necessary, for the furtherance of your and our object, *a Reform in the Representation in that House.* While so many members are collected together by means "which it is not necessary for us to describe," we cannot but entertain the greatest apprehensions for the remainder of our liberties; and the employment of a military force against one of their own body is but a sad presage of what may be expected by those who might, like you, have the courage to stand forward in defence of the rights of the people. When we reflect on your generous exertions to destroy the horrors of secret and solitary confinement; to mitigate the severity of punishment in the army; to prevent the cashiering of its Officers without cause assigned; to restore, for the comfort of the worn-out soldier, the public property conveyed by a job to a private individual; to prevent the extention of the barrack system, the obvious effect of which is to separate the soldier from the citizen; to prevent the introduction of foreign troops; to bring to light an atrocious act of tyranny, by which a British sailor was left to perish on a barren rock; and, above all, your unremitted exertions to obtain a full, fair, and free representation of the People in Parliament; when we reflect on the firmness, the unshaken constancy, which you have invariably shewn "in evil report and good report;" we are eager to express the sentiments of gratitude and attachment to you with which we are impressed: and we are convinced that those sentiments are not only felt by the inhabitants of this city, but by every person throughout the land who is not interested in the continuance of public abuses."

Mr. WIMPORY then moved a vote of thanks to Lord Cochrane, which was immediately passed; upon which

Lord COCHRANE said, that he felt as others did, that the iron hand of power had been stretched out against his worthy friend, one of their Representatives in Parliament. It was not merely against their Representative, but against a Representative that enjoyed their entire confidence, a man "who dared to be honest in the worst of times." He hoped that the people would never so far acquiesce in this assumption of power, as to allow it to be drawn into precedent. He felt it necessary to explain a misrepresentation of what he said in Parliament. He had not applied the word "censurable" to any thing which Sir Francis had done; but he had merely said, that such an expression as was complained of would be censurable, if applied to a House of Commons which was conscious of having done its duty. But could it be supposed that he meant that a House of Commons which had acquitted the Ministers who planned the Walcheren expedition, and who had approved of their conduct, were really conducting themselves as became the dignity of the House? He thought the House of Commons ought to have the power of committing, but not to the extent it had now been exercised. Those offences which were cognizable by the laws, should, as he thought, be left to the laws to determine. Whatever might be the forms of the House of Commons, the immutable principles of justice were above the regulations of any body of men whatever. It was necessary to say a few words about the manner in which the warrant was executed. An useless parade of military force was exhibited before the house of Sir Francis, for the purpose of intimidation. His house was beset by armed men, whom the Sheriffs afterwards thought it their duty to remove. There was, however, one part of the transaction in which he approved much more of the conduct of Ministers than he did of the principles professed by Opposition. Those who sought every opportunity for attacking Ministers, found fault with them for not resorting to military force sooner; now he felt some obligation to them for having respected the laws for *two whole days*, and hesitated in breaking into the house, which by the law they were not entitled to enter. Their worthy representative (Sir Francis Burdett) had always made the most strenuous exertions to detect corruption, wherever it might conceal itself. That great measure, of which he had been the powerful advocate, a Parliamentary Reform, was in his opinion so absolutely necessary, that he felt convinced, that if that was not speedily obtained, and the unnecessary expences of the war retrenched, this country must fall, like other nations, before that power which had now subjugated Europe. He had often heard that this country was perfectly safe from all attacks by the superiority of its naval force. He would declare to God, that he was not of that opinion. He was well informed that we had not now in our dock-yards timber enough for the common repairs of our navy. In Plymouth there was not a supply for more than six weeks; and he understood there was not sufficient to build one-half of a 74 gun-ship. Now, when it was considered, that we were cut off from all supplies from

the Continent of Europe, and that our supplies from Canada and Nova Scotia depended on no firmer tenure than the precarious wisdom of our councils, he thought that even our navy was in an alarming situation, from the want of means to repair or build ships. He then stated, from the papers presented to the House, that the number of British seamen employed in our trade to Europe was 16,000, whereas the foreign seamen amounted to 29,100. The English ships employed in the trade amounted to 2000, while the foreign ships exceeded 4000. After some farther observations, he concluded, by giving his opinion, that a Parliamentary Reform was absolutely necessary; and that if the people were but unanimous, they must obtain it. (*Bravo, bravo! from all quarters.*)

A vote of Thanks to those independent Members of the House who have supported the Rights of the People—having been moved and carried,

Mr. WARDLE then presented himself amidst the loudest plaudits, and spoke to the following effect:—He said his opinions exactly coincided with those of the Noble Lord. He had ever and should ever maintain, both in the House and out of it, that they had no right to commit any person to prison for a libel. In considering what it was that the House of Commons felt so indignant at in the letter of Sir F. Burdett, one remarkable expression was, that the Speaker's Warrant under which Gale Jones was committed was a thing *sui generis*. Now, it would be curious to consider the progress of this warrant, or, as Sir Francis would call it, this thing, *sui generis*, in his case. It was first given to the Serjeant at Arms to execute; but when he came to the Baronet's house, he found there was a door in his way. (*Laughter.*) What was to be done when this was discovered? The Serjeant at Arms was puzzled beyond measure, and went back to the Speaker, to know what was to be done. The Speaker looked at the warrant, acknowledged it was his hand-writing, but he was as much puzzled as the Serjeant. (*Laughter.*) He believed the next step was to shew it to the Bow-street Magistrates! They also were puzzled. They had been used to execute warrants for crimes specified by *the law of the land*; but what was to be done with the Speaker's Warrant, they did not know! This unfortunate paper was then laid before a Cabinet Council, where the Lord Chancellor and many grave lawyers attended, as well as the wise Man of the East. (*Laughter, and cries of "We know him!"*) They were all puzzled, and did not know what to say about it; when at last the First Lord of the Treasury, himself a lawyer, sent it, in despair, to the luminous and learned Attorney General, to endeavour to mend it; and a strange opinion, indeed, the learned Attorney had given. He was as much puzzled as any of them. There was, however, one tribunal before which it might yet come, and which he hoped would not be so easily puzzled, he meant a BRITISH JURY—(*Shouts of applause.*) In the case of Gale Jones, it was contended, that the privileges of the House of Commons were of so high and mighty a nature, that the Judges of the land were not worthy to look at them; but in the case of Sir F. Burdett, the privileges of the House of Commons are sent to Bow-street, to be examined! He then read a passage from a speech of the great Lord Lyttleton, where it was declared, "That any privileges which were against the laws of the land, were tyranny and oppression, whoever might claim or exercise them." As he never was himself a party man, he was not learned in the history of parties; but he thought it most strange that the party designated by the name of *Whigs*, *Talents*, or *Outs*—(*Laughing*), should have chosen this particular occasion to declare their determination of *rallying round the Government*. They now rallied round those men whom they had been for so many years in the habit of calumniating and reviling; and now, in a moment, the Expeditions to Copenhagen and Walcheren were completely forgotten. To what was this miraculous conversion owing? They could not suppress or conceal their joy at getting rid of that honest and able man, who was always ready to expose the corruptions of any of their parties, and to urge that topic which was most dreadful to the ears of the corrupt, the necessity of a Reform in Parliament. They now supposed that they had nothing left to trouble them. Although his enemies had succeeded in dragging Sir F. Burdett from his house, and throwing him into prison, they could not succeed in their hope of dragging him from the hearts and affections of his Constituents—(*Never! never! Burdett for ever!*) Although they had now for a time lost the ablest advocate for their rights, yet if they would persevere and be unanimous, they would finally obtain a fair Representation, and triumph over their enemies and those of Sir F. Burdett—(*Loud applause.*) He concluded by intreating them to abstain from any irregularity, which would give their enemies a handle for which they much wished.—*Loud acclamations* followed this speech, which continued many seconds.—The business concluded with a short speech from Mr. JENNINGS, the barrister, in full approbation of the conduct of Sir Francis Burdett.

[As soon as this momentous business was disposed of, the people, to the amount, some say, of twenty thousand, immediately separated with a celerity and silence never before witnessed. In less than half an hour, the yard was quite emptied of the immense multitude, each man peaceably returning to his home, satisfied that he had been doing his duty both to himself and his country. The result of the Meeting was thus highly satisfactory to every body but the Ministry and their dependants, who by words and deeds had exerted themselves to irritate and alarm the people. In the House, the evening before, one of their best friends, Mr. Windham, had alluded to this Meeting, and talked rather unintelligibly about giving up *Barabbas* to the people. "Now *Barabbas* was a robber;" and one of these days the public will know perhaps what Mr. Windham has been. Other Members also alluded to it; the troops, horse and foot, men with whiskers and men without whiskers, who had been marched to London and its vicinity in order to seize one honest Senator, to the amount of 34,000 men, were detained till this Meeting was over—so much did Ministers hope or fear from it. But men of bad consciences are generally cowards:—"The thief doth fear each bush an officer."—For many days the Golgotha Expedition men were in the utmost state of alarm. The Prime Minister, though so near the Horse Guards, did not feel himself safe without a guard in Downing-street; troops were stationed in the houses of the Marquis Wellesley and Lord Castlereagh; and the lofty Mr. Canning, though living at Brompton, actually sent for the Kensington Volunteers to protect his august person and premises, though not a single person took the least notice of either!—Poor Mr. Lethbridge, with "his hair on end," was frightened—not certainly out of his wits—but out of town—for he rushed into a post-chaise on the first alarm, and galloped down into Somersetshire, where he had better remain, if he wishes to avoid the hootings of the school-boys; he is now

"Sacred to ridicule his whole life long,
"And the sad burthen of some merry song."

Much praise is due to the High Bailiff, Mr. Sturch, and Mr. Wishart, who conducted the Meeting; they had caused large placards to be printed and stuck upon poles, which were seen in every part of the crowd, inviting the assembly to orderly conduct; and certainly never were people more orderly—never did a popular assembly, composed of thousands of harassed, injured, and insulted citizens, conduct themselves with so little tumult and so much unanimity. One soul animated the whole body; they sought for a redress of wrongs, but they sought it like men who respected the Constitution, which all their exertions went to purify and restore.]

REFORM IN PARLIAMENT.

A dinner of the friends to Constitutional Reform of abuses;—Mr. WAITHMAN in the Chair,—took place on Thursday at the great room in the City of London Tavern, which was so completely filled, that many gentlemen could not gain admittance.—About a quarter past five, Mr. Waithman, the Chairman, appeared, accompanied by Mr. Whitbread, Colonel Wardle, Lord Cochrane, Mr. John Burdett, Lord Ossulston, General Mathews, Mr. Hutchin-

son, Mr. Maddocks, Mr. Byng, Mr. Creevy, Mr. Alderman Wood, and other gentlemen.—Want of room prevents the insertion of the speeches made on this occasion. Mr. WHITBREAD alluded to the privileges of the House, some of which he thought were for the good of the people. Mr. WARDLE contended that they ought to be defined. Mr. JONES BURDETT conveyed to the Meeting the gratifying intelligence that his brother was never in better health and spirits than at that moment; he was perfectly calm under his confinement, as he was conscious he had only performed his duty to the public. Mr. MADDOCKS took an opportunity of repelling the assertion that Sir FRANCIS BURDETT had deceived the Serjeant: this, he said, could not be, as his intention to resist was announced to the Speaker on Friday afternoon. Mr. WHITBREAD, during the temporary absence of Mr. WAITHMAN, took the chair.—The following were among the toasts of the day:—

The King,—with three times three.

The People,—with three times three.

Sir Francis Burdett, the Defender of Magna Charta, and the good old Laws of England;—and may his efforts obtain for the People of England, a full, fair, and free Representation of the People in Parliament.

May all House-breakers and their Abettors, "*by analogy*," be brought to condign Punishment.

Mr. WHITBREAD, the warm Friend and powerful Advocate of the Constitutional Rights of the People.

Mr. Wardle, the inflexible Foe to Corruption and Abuse.

Mr. Byng and the Freeholders of Middlesex.

Lord Cochrane and the Electors of Westminster, and may their virtuous Example be followed by the whole Country.

Alderman Combe and the Livery of London, and may they ever take the Lead in the Cause of Liberty and Reform.

Mr. Maddocks, the Exposer of corrupt and unprincipled Borough Factions.

General Mathews, and may the People of Ireland speedily obtain the Possession of their civil and religious Rights.

Colonel Hutchinson, and may the Soldier never forget the rights of the Citizen.

Mr. Creevey, the steady and continued Friend to Freedom.

Sir Samuel Romilly, the supporter of the Laws and Liberties of England, and may they triumph over unjust precedents, and assumed power.

Lord Ossulston, the Enemy to the unjust imprisonment of Englishmen.

Mr. Jones Burdett, and may the Borough Faction never be permitted to imprison Englishmen.

When the Supporters of assumed Privileges rally round corrupt Ministers, may it be the signal for the People of England to rally round the Constitution.

SIR VICARY GIBBS.

The following is an extract of a letter, dated Kingsdowne, near Bristol, April 17:—

"Sir Vicary Gibbs, the Attorney-General of England and Recorder of Bristol, has arrived in this city, for the purpose of presiding in his official capacity at our Assizes. About the middle of the last week, a letter was thrust under the Council House door, containing sentiments of the strongest nature, and yesterday morning our Chief Magistrate received one signed by six fictitious names, declaring that a secret society existed, who had resolved that Sir Vicary should not come into the city alive, or, if he did chance to escape, that their vengeance would reach him ere he quitted the town; this letter was forwarded to Sir Vicary Gibbs, with a request from the Mayor, that he would enter early, in consequence of which he arrived here full three hours sooner than usual, and in disguise—What a dignified situation for the Attorney-General!!! Letters were posted about the city, in which his votes on the Duke of York's business, the Walcheren Expedition, and Sir Francis Burdett's Committal, were stated as recommendations to his fellow-citizens, and entreating them to pay him proper respect; this, as was to be expected, only served to fan the flame, and when the Recorder arrived, about half-past four, he was received with one universal hiss, execrations poured in from all quarters, and the air rang with cries of "Burdett for ever;" but our Magistrates having enforced the attendance of a large body of constables, no personal violence was attempted. He then proceeded to the Guildhall, opened the Court, and adjourned to the Council House, from whence the cavalcade removed to the Mayoralty House in Queen square, accompanied by the howlings of the mob: when they reached that place, oyster-shells and other missile articles were thrown at the carriage inclosing the Attorney-General, who hung back in a corner. On descending from the carriage, many stones were hurled from the mob, one of which nearly struck Sir Vicary on the head, and after they had proceeded to the interior of the mansion, several windows were broke; a large body of additional constables were sworn in, which served to keep the populace in awe, but in the interim the Council House was attacked, and all the windows broke; the Guildhall shared the same fate, and all the lamps in the principal streets were demolished. Our Corporation has issued a Proclamation, offering a reward of fifty pounds for the discovery of offenders. The Attorney-General slept out of town last night, at his brother's house, Redland,

Sir VICARY, on Tuesday, opened the Commission, when he noticed the riots in the following terms:—

"Before I proceed to notice the particular features of the calendar presented to me, which I am sorry to observe is much heavier than what usually this city affords, I cannot refrain from expressing the deep concern with which I witnessed the tumultuous proceedings of last evening. What *motive* could the promoters of that disturbance have in view? *No state of things can justify an appeal to violence*; and I flatter myself that not one-fifth of those who were assembled in the street, were disposed to do mischief; they were drawn together, perhaps, from curiosity, or from idle disposition, though there doubtless were persons of desperate characters, whose delight was the commission of evil. But it is proper that the unwary should be informed of the risk they ran. If mischief had ensued, and there should have been loss of life, every one, however innocent his intention might be, who was countenancing the mob by his presence, would have been indictable for *murder*. An attack was made on the Mansion-house with stones and other hard substances—every one then looking on might be said to be aiding and abetting that attack, and was amenable to the law for all its consequences. One would suppose no one could be found to engage in so unequal a contest; for in cases of riot, every man may be called on for his assistance in quelling it, and if life should be taken, the act is held innocent, whilst every one rioting is subject to the severest punishment of the law; and very few cases occur, that some feel not its weight. I trust, Gentlemen, that all is now over; but if any recurrence should take place, prompt measures are ready to suppress, and the utmost rigour will be used in punishing the delinquents."

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

WILFUL MURDER.—A Coroner's Inquest has been held at the King's Head, James-street, Westminster, on the body of *James Pledge*, who died in Westminster Hospital, on Friday se'nnight, in consequence of a wound he received from a pistol, on Saturday night, the 7th of April, discharged by a soldier of the Life Guards. The evidence was given principally by the companion of the deceased, who stated that about half past ten he and the deceased were standing at the top of Church-court, leading into Jermyn-street, the street at this time having been nearly cleared of the people as far as the top of the Haymarket. While they were standing peaceably in this situation, two gentlemen ran out of Piccadilly, and said, "the soldiers are

coming," they ran to the court; a soldier rode by the top of the court, but turning round, on seeing the people there, he levelled his pistol at them, and shot his companion. The evidence stated, that at the time the pistol was fired, there was not the least disturbance in the court.—Mr. White, Surgeon, of Parliament-street, who attended the deceased, stated that in passing up York-street, St. James's-square, on Saturday night, he was met by some women running down the street, exclaiming that a man was shot in Jermyn-street. Mr. White saw a number of people assisting in carrying off the man, who was taken to an apothecary's house in the street; that he went to the house and found a bullet had entered the left side, which he discovered lying near the spine, from whence he extracted it. Mr. White sent the man to the Westminster Hospital, where every possible assistance was administered; that for three or four days the bad symptoms yielded to medical treatment, but that on Thursday se'nnight the patient began to sink, and expired the next day. The deceased was 18 years of age, the son of a bricklayer, residing in York-street.—The Jury returned a verdict of—*Wilful Murder against a Life Guardsman unknown.*

ANOTHER MURDER.—On Wednesday a Coroner's Inquest was held at St. Thomas's Hospital, on the body of *Thomas Ebrall*, who was killed in Mr. Goodeve's shop, Mincing-lane, on Monday, the 9th instant. Mr. GOODEVE stated, that when the first part of the soldiers had passed his house, there were not more than 20 people assembled near his shop, and those were neither hissing nor throwing stones. As soon as the rear guard had passed his window, four or five of them turned round and fired: at this time he did not see any person near his shop. He forced his family into the cellar. The deceased was standing by his side in the shop. He observed *one soldier* in particular turn his horse round, and level his piece at his window; the window broke, and the glass hit his face; at the same instant the deceased fell.—THOMAS WOOLCOT met with the deceased at the corner of Mincing-lane, and stood with him near the boot-maker's shop. All was very quiet in that quarter. After the rear-guard had passed, four or five of the soldiers turned round and fired; he by this time missed the deceased, and he supposed he must have gone into the shop. After the firing commenced, every one near Mr. Goodeve's shop went away, except himself and one or two others; he did not go, because he did not believe they were firing with ball. He stood against Mr. Goodeve's shop-window until a ball struck it, and on looking in, he saw a man lying on the floor wounded, whom he knew to be the deceased. At the time the pistol was fired, there were not more than two beside himself. Neither hissing, nor any other insult was offered to the soldiers near him. On going to procure a Surgeon to assist Mr. EBRALL, another pistol was fired, the ball from which passed so near him that he took shelter in a shop. He observed several of the soldiers with mud and dirt on them. The people assembled in Fenchurch-street, near Mark-lane, he believed not to be more than from 40 to 50. The instant the soldiers began to fire, about half of the above number ran up Star-court, and he saw one of the Life Guards go and deliberately fire upon it. Mr. ELLIOT, a druggist, who lives in Fenchurch-street, saw some of the mob with brick-bats, and saw them throw them at the soldiers, but this was not near the shop where the deceased was killed. He saw two soldiers fire, when they had nothing that he saw to fire at; and he had a strong suspicion that one of them was the person that shot the deceased.—THOMAS LYCETT was at a two-pair of stairs window; he saw 17 or 18 young men throw something at the soldiers, but this was not near where the deceased was shot. Witness heard the soldiers who formed the rear-guard repeatedly called on to join the ranks, but they did not obey.—He noticed one foot passenger walking along very quietly, when one of the rear-guard, apparently in a rage, levelled his pistol at him, and pulled the trigger, but it missed fire; he then re-cocked it, and fired again at the passenger, but fortunately missed him. The ball went through the shop window of Mr. PHILLIPS, an auctioneer. He proved that there was no disturbance at any time near the shop of Mr. Goodeve, occasioned by the people.—Mr. THORNTON, Mr. SWAN, and Mr. WILSON, of Fenchurch-street, corroborated the evidence of Mr. LYCETT.—Mr. SHELTON summed up the evidence, and laid much stress on the evidence of Mr. Goodeve, who had positively sworn that *a particular* soldier had fired into the shop, when there was no apparent cause to justify it. The Jury retired for about five minutes, and brought in a verdict of *Wilful Murder against a Soldier in the rear of the Life Guards, that passed through Fenchurch-street, about one o'clock, on Monday, the 9th of April.*

POLICE.

BOW-STREET.

An unhappy woman has of late been in the habit of following Mr. W——n, M. P. as he went in and out of the House of Commons, in consequence of her having had a child by him, for the maintenance of which she claims 100*l*. Mr. W. who alleged that he had given her money for the purpose, had her taken into custody, and brought before Mr. NARES, who ordered her to find bail to keep the peace. While sitting in the parlour of the Brown Bear, the unfortunate creature, in a fit of desperation, stabbed herself with a penknife, which, taking a slanting direction, did not prove mortal.—This does not look like imposition, and it becomes Mr. W. to pay proper attention to her claims. The poor thing was sent to Tothill-fields Bridewell, for want of bail.

On Thursday, *Aaron Alexander*, a Jew, was brought to this office, on suspicion of having wilfully set fire to his house, in Little Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields. On Monday, an alarm of fire was given, which had broken out in the shop occupied by the prisoner, who had just insured for 300*l*. though his stock and furniture were not worth fifty pounds. The fire was soon put out; but the place burned appeared to have been smeared with grease, which, with other suspicious circumstances, induced the Directors of the County Fire-Office to look into the affair. The prisoner was remanded for farther examination.—When Lavender took him into custody, the prisoner attempted to escape, and gave the officer a violent blow on the head. Lavender, however, knocked him down, and brought him to the office on his back.

DEATHS.

On the 7th of March Admiral Lord Collingwood.—The Nereus frigate arrived on Monday at Portsmouth from Gibraltar with the remains of this officer. His Lordship died on board his flag-ship the Ville de Paris, off Minorca, from whence she sailed on the preceding day on her way to England. Lord Collingwood had been seriously indisposed for several months, and recently obtained leave to come home for the purpose of re-establishing his health. Sir C. Cotton was appointed to succeed him in the command of the fleet on the Mediterranean station.—Lord Collingwood succeeded to the command of the Mediterranean fleet on the death of Lord Nelson, and, for the last five years, he had scarcely set foot on shore. For his services in the battle of Trafalgar, in which he was second in command, his Majesty conferred on him the rank of a Baron. His Lordship, who had nearly attained his 60th year, was born in the county of Northumberland, where his family has been settled for several years. His Lordship died of a stoppage in the pylorus, or inferior aperture of the stomach. For some time before his death he was incapable of taking any sustenance whatever. The temporary command of the fleet devolved upon Admiral Martin.

On Friday, Mr. James Amos, merchant and underwriter: he fell down in the subscription room at Lloyd's, about two o'clock, and instantly expired.

On Thursday, in Dover-street, Mr. Blore, builder: his death was occasioned by a violent fit of laughter.

At Milland-house, Sussex, John Wilkes, Esq. formerly a bookseller and printer at Winchester.

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